

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA—A PORT OF DELIVERY.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 620.]

JUNE 15, 1860.

Mr. JOHN COCHRANE, from the Committee on Commerce, made the following

R E P O R T .

The Committee on Commerce, to whom was referred a bill to constitute Montgomery, Alabama, a port of delivery, reports :

That there is no information before your committee authorizing any action by them, nor has the Treasury Department, to which the bill was referred, any data authorizing the Secretary to recommend favorable action thereon. Your committee, therefore, have directed me to report back the bill with the recommendation that it do not pass.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *April 14, 1860.*

SIR : I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, submitting for the views of this department a bill to constitute Montgomery, Alabama, a port of delivery.

In reply I transmit, herewith, a copy of a letter from this department, under date of April 10, 1858, to the Hon. C. C. Clay, jr., chairman of the Committee on Commerce, U. S. Senate, in which I decline, for the reasons therein stated, and which are still entertained, to recommend the establishment of a port of delivery at Montgomery, Alabama.

The bill is herewith returned.

I am, very respectfully,

HOWELL COBB,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. JOHN COCHRANE,
*Chairman, pro tem., of Committee on Commerce,
House of Representatives.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *April 10, 1858.*

SIR : In reply to your letter of the 7th instant, submitting for my opinion "a bill to constitute Montgomery, in the State of Alabama, a port of delivery," I have to say that there is no information to be had in the department which would enable me to form a satisfactory opinion in respect to the expediency of such a measure, and I am, therefore, unwilling to make any recommendation for its establishment.

From the general information in reference to the commercial importance of Montgomery, I have no doubt it has as high claims to be made a port of delivery as other points which have been so constituted. In my opinion, however, it would be much better to abolish many of these existing ports of delivery than to add to the number; according to the view I take of the subject, no additional ports of delivery should be created, unless required for the purpose of collecting and protecting the revenue ; such reason does not exist in the case of Montgomery, as far as I am advised, and I therefore decline to recommend its establishment.

For my general views on this subject, involving as it does an unnecessary increased expenditure of the public money, I refer you to former communications on the subject.

The bill is herewith returned.

I am, very respectfully,

HOWELL COBB,
Secretary of the Treasury.

Hon. C. C. CLAY,
Chairman Committee on Commerce, Senate.